

644 *Sons of Shaikh Muhammad bin Isa :*

SHAIKH AHMED BIN MUHAMMAD AL-KHALIFAH.
SHAIKH ALI BIN MUHAMMAD AL-KHALIFAH.
SHAIKH KHALIFAH BIN MUHAMMAD AL-KHALIFAH.
SHAIKH IBRAHIM BIN MUHAMMAD AL-KHALIFAH.
SHAIKH SULMAN BIN MUHAMMAD AL-KHALIFAH.
SHAIKH HAMED BIN MUHAMMAD AL-KHALIFAH.
SHAIKH ABD AL-AZIZ BIN MUHAMMAD AL-KHALIFAH.
SHAIKH-ISA BIN MUHAMMAD AL-KHALIFAH.

647 HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Adviser to the Government and Commandant State Police : SIR CHARLES BELGRAVE, K.B.E.

Director of Customs : MR. G. W. R. SMITH, M.B.E.

Minister of Education : H.E. SHAIKH ABDULLA BIN ISA AL-KHALIFAH, C.I.E.

Director of Education : MR. AHMED AL-UMRAN.

Directress of Female Education : LADY BELGRAVE.

Officer in Charge Finance Department : MR. SAYED MAHMOUD ALAWI.

Officer in Charge Judicial Department : MR. SALIM AL-ARAYEDH.

Superintendent State Police : SHAIKH KHALIFAH BIN MUHAMMAD AL-KHALIFAH.

State Medical Officer : DR. R. H. B. SNOW, M.B.E.

State Engineer : MR. D. BRAMMER.

Superintendent Minors' Estates Department : MR. MUHAMMAD DOWAIGER.

Superintendent of the Land Department : KHAN SAHIB MUHAMMAD KHALIL MENON.

Officer in Charge Passport and Emigration Department : MR. KADHIM ASFOUR.

Officer in Charge Public Works Department : MAJOR S. HILLS.

President of the Religious Endowments Committee :

Shia : HAJ MOHSEN AT-TAJIR.

Sunni : SHAIKH ATIYYATALLAH AL-KHALIFAH.

Officer in Charge Transport Department : MR. J. L. MORRIS.

Director of Agriculture : MR. W. W. VAN OLLENBACH.

Secretaries of the Municipalities :

Manama : MR. MUHAMMAD SALIH SHATR.

Muharraq and Hedd : MR. IBRAHIM KHALFAN.

Rifaa (East and West) President : SHAIKH ABDULLA BIN KHALID AL-KHALIFAH

Secretary Bahrain Chamber of Commerce : MR. RASHID ZAYANI.

CHAPTER IV

COMMUNICATIONS

508

BAHRAIN, owing to its central position in the Persian Gulf, is the natural stopping place for air services between the Middle East and the Far East and for this reason it is a port of call for many air companies. Bahrain's Airport is on Muharraq Island, a short drive from the town, and is sufficiently large to take the newest types of aircraft including the B.O.A.C. Comet which started services through Bahrain in August, 1952. There is in addition a Persian Gulf air service, Gulf Aviation Company Ltd., in which the Bahrain Government has an important interest and whose headquarters is at Muharraq.

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Air travel is very popular in the Persian Gulf and there has been a great increase in the air traffic to and from Bahrain. In the twelve

Muharraq Island

101 This is the second largest island of the group and in all probability the "Aradus" of the classical writers. It is located northeast of Bahrein and is about five and a half square miles in area, horseshoe shaped and only a mile wide. It is separated [49] from Bahrein by a channel spanned by a causeway a mile and a half long with a motor road and by a swinging bridge which was completed in 1941.

361 The chief city is MUHURRAQ, on the western side, the second largest city in the islands and the summer residence of the 162 Sheik. Its population is about 26,000. Muhurraq and Manama, 633 on Bahrein Island, are each administered by a Municipal Committee which in addition to civic duties are jointly responsible for the upkeep of thirty per cent of the roads in the archipelago.

361 Other towns among the sixteen or more on Muhurraq which 162 should be mentioned are:

ARAD. This is an important date producing center with some sixteen thousand palm trees, on the southern shore of the Gulf of Arad. It is inhabited by the Baharinah.

HADD. Second in importance only to Muhurraq, Hadd is the leading pearl fishing center of the islands. It has a population of almost 10,000, consisting of Sādār and Beni Yās. Since the English began to take a direct hand in the administration of the island it has become possibly the most modern of the cities,

[242] with many up-to-date homes and an agricultural experiment [69] station as well as a modern penitentiary and the cottage of the British Financial Adviser.

The villages of Basatin, Qalali, Samahij and Dair, on the north and northeast coasts, are also important. Their population follows the Sunnite faith exclusively and those in Qalali belong to the Manani'a tribe.

508 Muhurraq Island has a military and civil airfield used by 712 the British Overseas Air Service. The field has limited fueling and repair facilities for normal traffic as well as minimum lighting, runway lights, and lighted wind indicators. There are hard surface, all weather runways with an elevation of two feet; the

longest runway, to the nearest hundred feet, is 7400 feet long. 508
There are radio communication and direction finder with voice, 712
and the Radio Bahrein tower operates on 6440 kilocycles,
117.9 mc.

The other principal islands of the Bahrein group are:

SITRA, which is separated from Bahrein by the Sitra Canal, 101
which is about a quarter of a mile wide. The southern part of 162
the island is completely barren but in the north there are small 361
villages, mostly inhabited by Baharinah farmers and fishermen.
The most important are Wadiyan, Kharijia, Muhazza and
Sufala, all of which are important date growing centers.

NABBI SĀLIH, the smallest of the five islands, situated about
three quarters of a mile off the coast of Bahrein. There are
palm groves and two small fishing centers, Kafan and Karya.
The island has many gardens and orchards, as well as palm
groves with some fifteen thousand trees. It is entirely inhabited
by the Baharinah.

UMM NA'SAN, two miles west of Bahrein, a low and sandy
island four miles long and triangular in shape. The island is
dominated by two rocky peaks, one rising to an elevation of
sixty-six feet at about half a mile from the western point of the
island, and the other twenty-five feet high situated about half
a mile farther to the east. Near the west coast there is a water
source used by the people of the west coast of Bahrein, mostly
the towns of Badaiya'a and Zallāq, whose custom it is to send
their cattle to graze there during the summer.

Besides these principal islands there are a number of smaller 101
ones, mostly inhabited. From north to south and west to east 162
these are:

KHASAIFA.

JARDI.

SAYA, with its fresh water spring, located about half a mile
off the west coast of Muharraq Island.

ABU MAHIR, a small island south of Muharraq and con-
nected to it at low tide. There is a small fort on the 712
island erected for the defense of the water source which 312
formerly supplied the people of Muharraq.
[25]

K 128

ARABIA

SA companies may need to be defined now that one concessionaire
471 seems likely to create revenue; problems may also arise if, as a
648 result of oil developments, it is planted with a population that
will need to be endowed with public services and, no doubt,
with a system of taxation.

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BAHRAIN

The Bahrain Archipelago is a group of islands in the Gulf of Bahrain, which is bounded on the east by the Qatar Peninsula and on the west by the mainland coast of al-Hasa. Its total area is 213 square miles. The principal island—Bahrain itself—is

B about thirty miles long and ten miles wide. It is low-lying and its
312 northern end is well watered by fresh water springs and pro-
241 duces good date crops. Citrus fruit and lucerne are also grown.
135 The oilfields lie round the rocky cluster of hills known as Jebel Dukhan (Hill of Smoke), which is in the barren centre of the island.

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491 To the north-east of Bahrain Island, and joined to it by a
504 causeway and motor road, is the low, sandy island of Muharraq, and between the two islands is a good deep-water harbour
[712] (Khor Kaliya). It is used as a small British naval base; an American admiral also flies his flag there. Nearby there is a

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508 second, but shallow harbour (Bahrain harbour), which faces
509 north and is usefully equipped. The natural aerodrome on Muharraq Island has been developed into the largest commercial airfield in the Persian Gulf and now serves the airliners of all nations. It is also used by the RAF, and the whine of jet

133 aircraft is a commonplace. The south end of the island of
132 Bahrain is low-lying and sandy. The climate, though oppressive in summer owing to the prevalent heat and damp of the western shores of the Persian Gulf, is more humid and less windy than
B that of Kuwait. The population of the Archipelago was 109,650
161 when a census was taken in 1950.¹

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361 The capital and the seat of government is the port of Manama.² It is generally referred to as Bahrain, and is situated
161 between the two harbours. It has a population of 39,648, which
162 includes many rich Arab, Persian, and Indian merchants, as well as some 300 Europeans and Americans. The second town, Muharraq, on Muharraq Island, has a population of 24,566 which is purely Arab.

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361 The British Political Agency is in Manama town, which also boasts an electricity station, a wireless station, post offices, hospitals, clubs, public gardens, and up-to-date schools. The town is well supplied with good motor roads, and there are

¹ 1952 estimate, 115,000. ² Population: 1950, 39,648; 1952 (estimate), 45,000.